The Ministry of Tourism has also sanctioned projects worth Rs. 3726.79 lakh for development of tourism in the State of Gujarat during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Resentment against Sixth Pay Commission Report

*519. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government Employees Unions have announced that the Sixth Pay Panel Report is unacceptable to them;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Sixth Pay Commission has made some amendments in its report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Government has received representations from some Central Government employees unions against certain recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission relating to pay structure, allowances, etc.

(c) No, Sir.

New Exploration Licensing Policy

*520. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the New Exploration Licensing Policy;

(b) what are the details of the projects under which exploration of oil and gas is being carried out under the new Policy, State-wise;

(c) what are the details of the agencies involved; and

(d) what are the details of the success that has been achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) New Exploration Licensing Policy was launched in 1997. The Government of India adopted international competitive bidding (ICB) system for offering acreages for exploration and production of oil and gas in the country. NELP has provided a level playing field wherein bids are invited from private and public sector companies—both Indian as well as foreign. Six rounds of bids have so far been invited under NELP, in which,162 exploration blocks have been awarded. The seventh round of NELP has been launched on 13th December, 2007, wherein Government has offered 57 exlporation blocks (19 Deepwater blocks, 9 Shallow water blocks and 29 Onland blocks). Salient features of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) are at Statement-I. (*See* below)

(b) Details of NELP Blocks State-wise are Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) The details of agencies/operators involved in previous six rounds of NELP are at Statement -III (*See* below).

(d) Fifty nine oil and gas discoveries in 17 exploration blocks have been made under NELP so far. Work progress in remaining blocks is at various stages of exploration. Development Plan of Krisna-Godavari (KG) deepwater block is under implementation.